

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 5-9 are pending. By this Amendment, claim 1 is amended and claims 2-4 are canceled. Support for the language added to claim 1 is found in the specification and figures at, for example, Figures 1-3. Thus, no new matter is added by this Amendment. Reconsideration based on the above amendments and following remarks is respectfully requested.

The courtesies extended to Applicant's representative by Examiner Hoang at the interview held December 7, 2004, are appreciated. The reasons presented at the interview as warranting favorable action are incorporated into the remarks below and constitute Applicant's record of the interview.

I. The Claims Define Patentable Subject Matter

The Office Action rejects claims 1-3 and 6 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,817,406 to Cheung et al.; claims 1, 4 and 5 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,635,093 to Arena et al.; claims 7 and 8 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Cheung; and claim 9 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Cheung in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,643,483 to Kubota et al. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

A. 35 U.S.C. §102(b)

None of the applied references disclose a "ceramic heater comprising a ceramic substrate and heat generation pattern, wherein the heat generation pattern is formed on a surface of the ceramic substrate, through-holes for lift pins are disposed between the heat generation pattern and corners of the through-holes are chamfered," as recited in amended claim 1.

Instead, Cheung discloses a technique for a susceptor having a mesh-like electrode. See e.g., Cheung, col. 1, lines 63-67, and col. 7, lines 6-10. Cheung, however, does not disclose the heat generation pattern.

Susceptor 40 in Cheung transfers energy from heating element 36 to substrate 20 to uniformly heat the substrate. See, e.g., Cheung, col. 5, lines 7-15. Therefore, Cheung does not relate to a ceramic heater directly contacting the heat generation pattern with the ceramic. Thus, as acknowledged by the Examiner during the personal interview, Cheung does not disclose the ceramic heater as recited in independent claim 1.

For at least the foregoing reason, Cheung fails to anticipate or render obvious the subject matter of claim 1, and claims 2, 3 and 6 dependent therefrom. Withdrawal of the rejection is thus respectfully requested.

Further, Arena does not disclose the heat generation pattern, as recited in amended claim 1. Instead, Arena discloses a heater formed by embedding the heat generation body within the substrate. See, e.g., Figure 2 of Arena. Thus, Arena is different from the ceramic heater recited in claim 1 as claim 1 recites that the heat generation pattern is formed on the surface of the ceramic substrate. Thus, as acknowledged by the Examiner during the personal interview, Arena does not disclose the ceramic heater as recited in claim 1.

For at least the foregoing reason, Arena fails to anticipate or render obvious the subject matter of claim 1, and claims 4 and 5 dependent therefrom. Withdrawal of the rejection is thus respectfully requested.

B. 35 U.S.C. §103(b)

Claims 7 and 8 depend from claim 1. Thus, claims 7 and 8 are allowable for the same reason discussed above with respect to claim 1.

Claim 9 depends from claim 1. Thus, claim 9 is allowable for the same reason discussed above with respect to claim 1.

Withdrawal of these rejections are thus respectfully requested.

II. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



James A. Oliff
Registration No. 27,075

Randi B. Isaacs
Registration No. 56,046

JAO:RBI/ldg

Attachment:
Petition for One-Month Extension of Time

Date: December 13, 2004

OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC
P.O. Box 19928
Alexandria, Virginia 22320
Telephone: (703) 836-6400

<p>DEPOSIT ACCOUNT USE AUTHORIZATION Please grant any extension necessary for entry; Charge any fee due to our Deposit Account No. 15-0461</p>
--